

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV KS US

SUBJ: TONGSUN PARK AFFAIR: MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR KIM

REF: STATE 017104

1. I MET THIS MORNING (JANUARY 24) WITH KOREAN AMBASSADOR KIM. YESTERDAY HE HAD LENGTHY SESSION WITH PRESIDENT PARK FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AND SEPARATE MEETING WITH PRIMIN AND FONMIN, DEALING MAINLY WITH TONGSUN PARK AFFAIR.

2. KIM TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BRIEFED PRESIDENT PARK ON HIS MEETING WITH SPEAKER O'NEILL AS WELL AS WITH MEETINGS WITH HOLBROOKE AND WHITE. IN ADDITION HE DESCRIBED SITUATION IN US, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO TONGSUN PARK AFFAIR.

3. KIM REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT PARK'S REACTION WAS VERY POSITIVE. HE INSTRUCTED KIM TO INFORM SPEAKER O'NEILL OFFICIALLY THAT KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAD NO REPEAT NO OBJECTION TO TONGSUN PARK APPEARING BEFORE HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE AS OUTLINED TO KIM BY O'NEILL JANUARY 18. PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE WISHED THAT TONGSUN PARK AFFAIR BE TAKEN CARE OF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TO COOPERATE WITH HOUSE AND SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEES. PRESIDENT LEFT TO AMBASSADOR KIM, PRIMIN AND FONMIN DETAILS OF

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HOW THIS IS TO BE WORKED OUT.

4. KIM SAID THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT TONGSUN PARK WOULD APPEAR VOLUNTARILY BEFORE TWO COMMITTEES IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PRIOR TO SCHEDULED START OF HANNA TRIAL ON MARCH 20, WITH SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN TWO ETHICS

COMMITTEES AND HUNDLEY REPRESENTING TONGSUN PARK. PUBLIC SESSIONS WOULD FOLLOW TRIALS.

5. KIM WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED THAT THIS OBSTACLE HAD BEEN CLEARED AND KOREAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NO LONGER INTERPOSE OBJECTION TO TONGSUN PARK'S APPEARANCE BEFORE TWO ETHICS COMMITTEES. HE WISHES TO INFORM SPEAKER O'NEILL PERSONALLY AND OFFICIALLY AFTER HE RETURNS THIS COMING WEEKEND. BUT, IF IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO PREVENT FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR THREATS BY SPEAKER AND OTHERS, HE SUGGESTED DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO HINT TO O'NEILL THAT POSITIVE RESULTS LIKELY TO EMERGE FROM KIM'S CONSULTATIONS IN SEOUL AND HE WILL REPORT FULLY TO SPEAKER AFTER HIS RETURN. HE ALSO REQUESTED THAT ABOVE INFORMATION BE HELD VERY CLOSELY UNTIL HE HAS SEEN O'NEILL.

6. KIM ALSO INFORMED ME THAT HE FOUND TALK WITH PETER WHITE VERY USEFUL. HE SAID THAT HE HAD VERY FRANKLY DISCUSSED REASONS FOR NOT PRODUCING FOR COMMITTEE FORMER AMBASSADORS KIM DONG-JO AND HAHM AS WELL AS YANG DU-WANG BASED ON ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT EVEN RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH PRESIDENT PARK KNOWING THAT HE WOULD BE REBUFFED AND IT MIGHT WORK TO DETRIMENT OF OBTAINING PRESIDENT PARK'S AGREEMENT ON TONGSUN PARK APPEARANCE.

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7. KIM AND I ALSO DISCUSSED IMPROVEMENT IN ATMOSPHERICS AS A RESULT OF YEAR END AGREEMENT ON TONGSUN PARK AND RELEASE OF MYONGDONG PRISONERS. HE WISHES TO EXPLOIT THIS CIRCUMSTANCE TO REPAIR DAMAGE TO US-ROK RELATIONSHIP OVER THE NEXT YEAR OR SO. IN THIS CONNECTION HE TOLD ME QTE CONFIDENTIALLY UNQTE THAT THERE WOULD BE FURTHER RELEASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AS WELL AS FINAL RELEASE OF KIM DAE-JUNG FROM HOSPITAL ONCE HIS MEDICAL TREATMENT IS COMPLETED. HE ASKED VERY PARTICULARLY THAT THIS INFORMATION BE HELD VERY CLOSELY.

8. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THAT THIS NOW CLOSES THE CIRCLE ON TONGSUN PARK'S APPEARANCE BEFORE BOTH SENATE AND HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEES VOLUNTARILY WITH ROKG IMPLICIT SUPPORT. NEXT STEP IS FOR WITNESS (TONGSUN PARK) TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS DIRECTLY WITH COMMITTEES FOR APPEARANCES IN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN MID-MARCH BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF HANNA TRIAL. PARENTHETICALLY I TALKED LAST EVENING WITH SENATE COMMITTEE OBSERVER SWILLINGER, WHO IS VERY SATISFIED WITH INTERROGATION OF TONGSUN PARK AS IT RELATES TO SENATE INTERESTS. HE SAID THAT HE HAS ALREADY HELD

PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH HUNDLEY. HUNDLEY INFORMED HIM
TONGSUN PARK IS PREPARED TO APPEAR VOLUNTARILY BEFORE
COMMITTEES AND WISHES TO DO THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THEY HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED BRIEF AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD COVER
HIS VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE AND APPLY PROVISIONS OF
ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY MADE WITH ROKG AND TONGSUN PARK
TO SENATE APPEARANCE, THUS AVOIDING NEED FOR ANY NEW
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT. I ENCOURAGED HIM TO
PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS ALONG THESE LINES, WHICH AMBASSADOR
KIM INDICATED IS VERY STRONG ROKG PREFERENCE AS WELL.
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